

Istook Supports Tax Limitation Amendment

Washington, D.C. -- Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) voted Wednesday with the majority of the U.S. House of Representatives, 232-189, for a constitutional amendment requiring a two-thirds supermajority of both houses of Congress in order to pass a tax increase. Istook is an original co-sponsor of the proposed amendment.

“Oklahoma led the way with this approach to limiting the size of government and maximizing every citizen’s control of their own lives. This amendment would make it more difficult for Uncle Sam to reach into the pockets of hard-working taxpayers,” said Istook. **“The typical American family already spends about 40% of its income on taxes, more than clothes, food, and shelter combined. We need to give more protection to American citizens from those in government who are still addicted to spending too much of other people’s money.”**

Because the measure is an amendment to the United States Constitution it requires a two-thirds vote of each House for passage. Under the amendment, Congress would have the flexibility to waive the two-thirds requirement during times of military conflict, but tax increases approved under a waiver could only be in effect for a maximum of 2 years.

The state of Oklahoma passed a similar resolution in 1992 requiring a three-fourths vote for all tax increases.